

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:BMZOOK:RVC

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

C:HSOHNENFELDT

NEA: WSMITH

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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R 060027Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029066

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, JA

SUBJECT: BRIEFING JAPANESE ON SECRETARY'S MOSCOW VISIT

1. EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE RECEIVED JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELOR KURIYAMA JANUARY 30 TO GIVE HIM REQUESTED BRIEFING ON SECRETARY'S JANUARY 20-23 VISIT TO MOSCOW. KURIYAMA STATED HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED BRIEFING FROM COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT'S STAFF ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF SALT, BUT WAS INTERESTED IN OVERALL VIEW OF VISIT, INCLUDING ANGOLA, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND SALT'S RELATION TO THESE OTHER ISSUES.

2. ARMITAGE STATED THAT THE FACT THERE WERE NEW NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS SHOWED THAT SALT, THE MOST IMPORTANT AND CENTRAL ISSUE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE USSR, REMAINED ACTIVE AND WILL BE KEPT ON THE RAILS. A SALT AGREEMENT WOULD MAKE A BREZHNEV VISIT HERE QUITE POSSIBLE, BUT THE ISSUE WAS TOO SENSITIVE AND IMPORTANT TO EACH SIDE FOR EITHER TO RUSH IT
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BECAUSE OF OTHER CONSIDERATIONS SUCH AS THE UPCOMING

SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS OR OUR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. NEITHER, HOWEVER, ARE THESE DEVELOPMENTS OBSTACLES TO CONCLUSION OF A SALT AGREEMENT. IN RESPONSE TO KURIYAMA'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE SOVIETS COULDN'T DIVERT RESOURCES

SAVED BY A SALT AGREEMENT TO FURTHER BUILDUP OF THEIR CONVENTIONAL FORCES, ARMITAGE SAID THIS OF COURSE WAS TRUE, BUT IT APPLIED WITH EQUAL FORCE TO US.

3. ON ANGOLA, ARMITAGE REITERATED GIST OF SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY TO SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA THAT IF SOVIET/CUBAN PROXY WAR IN ANGOLA NOT TERMINATED AND NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT FOUND IT CANNOT BUT HAVE SERIOUS IMPACT IN THIS COUNTRY, BOTH WITH CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, ON OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. WE BELIEVE SOVIETS SHOULD BE CONCERNED THAT INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA MIGHT AFFECT FUTURE COURSE OF THESE RELATIONS AND COULD EVEN MAKE DIFFICULT PROCESS OF SALT RATIFICATION IN SENATE.

4. THERE WAS NOT A LOT TO SAY REGARDING DISCUSSIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SOVIETS WANT RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BUT HAVE NO MAGIC FORMULA FOR ADEQUATELY HANDLING THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION. THEY SIMPLY STILL INSIST ON SUCH PARTICIPATION WITHOUT ELABORATING ANY APPROACH THAT ADDRESSES ATTENDANT PROBLEMS. IN THIS CONNECTION, SOVIET RELATIONS WITH THE PLO SEEM NOT TO HAVE BEEN AN ENTIRELY NEGATIVE FACTOR, THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE MOSCOW MAY BE EXERTING A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON THE PLO, BUT THIS FACTOR SHOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED.

5. IN RESPONSE TO KURIYAMA'S QUESTION AS TO PROGRESS OF THE US-SOVIET OIL PURCHASE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH STARTED LAST WEEK, ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT THEY HAVE NOT GONE ANYWHERE YET.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETING AGENDA, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE029066
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BMZOOK:RVC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760045-0591
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760273/aaaacmkj.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING JAPANESE ON SECRETARY'S MOSCOW VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, JA, (KISSINGER, HENRY R)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006